

Agency : AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Title : Melons Grown in South Texas; Temporary Suspension of Handling and Assessment  
Collection Regulations

Subject Category : Melons grown in-- Texas

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Comment :

Suspending, for the 2004-05 fiscal period, the minimum grade, quality, maturity, container, pack, inspection, assessment collection, and other related requirements currently prescribed under the South Texas melon (cantaloupes and honeydews) marketing order (order) is clearly a give away to special interests in South Texas.

It is also an acknowledgement that the USDA has been unnecessarily restrictive in application of laws, rules, regulations and every other bureaucratic malfeasance imaginable.

However, it is a mistake to allow suspension of reporting requirements because this will be an open invitation to smugglers to move melons into Texas from Mexico without proper border inspections. During this time of national danger it is a mistake to allow South Texas companies, farmers or individuals unfettered access to the porous and dangerously unprotected southern border with Mexico.

Even with the acreage planting reports, which will continue to be required during the suspension period there will be temptation to smuggle the melons north to the large markets.

With this unfair trade and a flood of money heading into the hands of unscrupulous melon handlers the southern border will further deteriorate into chaos.

The South Texas Melon Committee (Committee) should be disbanded. Its very existence smacks of socialism and its members continue to practice a primitive form of communism that is tearing at the roots of our free market capitalist system.

Alfred Brock  
40047 Cambridge 102